

Washington D.C. – Today, Congressman Harry Teague announced funding to promote educational advances and help students succeed at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMT) in Socorro and New Mexico State University - Alamogordo. The funding, awarded by Strengthening Institutions- Hispanic Serving Institutions Program, will improve gateway courses and create educational structures that directly involve the students in the process of learning.

“As we make advances as a nation in the fields of science, technology, and engineering, it is crucial that we provide all students, and the institutions that serve them, with the preparation they need to graduate and pursue competitive careers,” Harry Teague said. “New Mexico Tech and NMSU-Alamogordo have developed innovative methods to reach out to Hispanic students to boost graduation rates by getting the students directly involved in the process. This funding is an important investment in the educational growth and success of the students who will someday contribute to advances in the fields of science and technology.”

The Strengthening Institutions- Hispanic Serving Institutions Program seeks to expand and improve the academic offering and quality as well as institutional stability of colleges and universities that enroll a large number of Hispanic students. The \$637,779 grant for NMT will be used to create living and learning communities that link key gateway courses with the First-Year Seminar and combine gateway courses with interactive educational methods and technologies. It will also establish a faculty development program and Center, learning labs in freshman residence halls, and modern classroom technologies to encourage the success of Hispanic students in science and engineering programs.

The \$637,951 grant for NMSU - Alamogordo will create the “No Time to Lose: A Head Start to STEM Success” initiative to increase the currently small percent of Hispanic students enrolled in

STEM programs. This Fast Track instruction will be centralized through the construction of a Foundation Learning Center. In addition, curricula in the fields of Information Technology, Electronics Technology, Biomedical Engineering Technology, and Renewable Energy will be redesigned to incorporate hands-on instruction, including the development of a Information Technology Training and Certification Center.

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